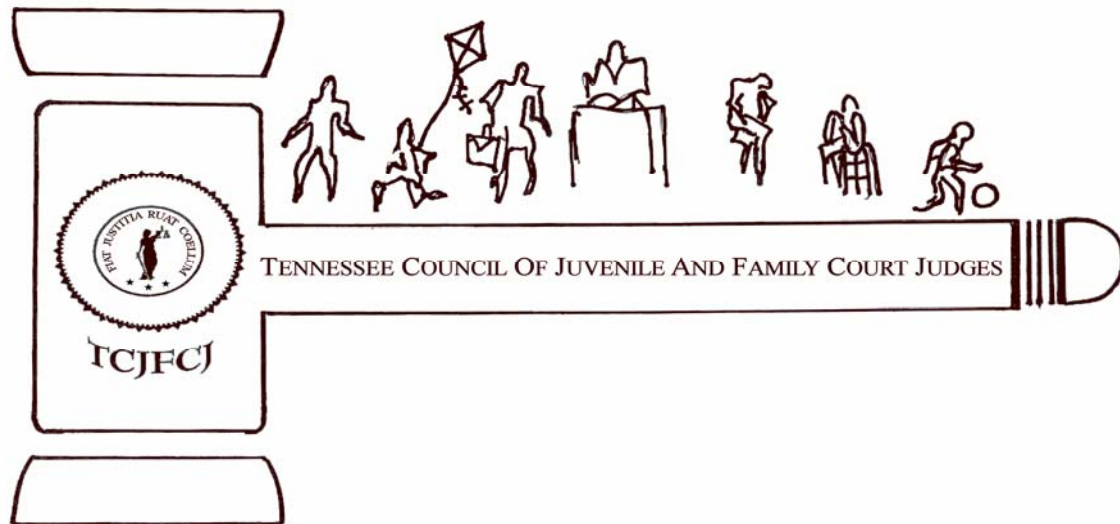


State of Tennessee



2007

Annual Juvenile Court Statistical Report

TENNESSEE COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

JUDGE RACHEL ANTHONY, PRESIDENT

2007

TENNESSEE ANNUAL JUVENILE COURT STATISTICAL REPORT

PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 2008

We appreciate the juvenile court staff and clerks who provided the juvenile court statistical data necessary for the production of this report. We also acknowledge the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth for their support and encouragement.

**Supreme Court of Tennessee
Administrative Office of the Courts
511 Union Street, Suite 600
Nashville, Tennessee 37219**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

2007 Annual Report Format	1
2007 Data Limitations	1
Tennessee Annual Juvenile Court Statistical Report Part I	3
The Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges	4
The Administrative Office of the Courts	5
Executive Summary	6
Juvenile Justice System in Tennessee	12
Juvenile Court Professional Staff	14
Juvenile Court Data Collection Process	16
Future Juvenile Court Statistical Data Collection System	18
Juvenile Court Referral Process	20
Chart – The Juvenile Court Referral Process	21
Tennessee Counties/Tennessee Juvenile Courts Map	22
Tennessee Regional and Metropolitan Area Map	23
Number of Individual Children Referred to Juvenile Courts	24
Table/Chart – Children Referred to Juvenile Court by Region, Race, and Sex	25
Chart – Delinquent, Dependent/Neglect/Abuse, and Status/Unruly Referrals	26
Chart – Referrals by Type of Offense	27
Chart – Referrals for Status/Unruly Offenses	28
Children Referred to Juvenile Courts	30
Table – Children with Delinquent Referrals by Race and Sex	31
Table – Children with Status/Unruly Referrals by Race and Sex	31
Table – Children with Dependency/Neglect/Abuse Allegations by Race and Sex	31
Referrals by Age Group, Race and Sex	32
Table/Chart – Referrals by Age Group, Race, and Sex	33
Children Referred by Age Group, Race, and Sex	34
Table/Chart – Children Referred by Race and Sex	35
Children Referred by Race and Sex	36
Table/Chart – Children Referred by Race and Sex	37
Children of Hispanic Origin by Race and Sex	38
Table/Chart – Children of Hispanic Origin by Race and Sex	39
Courts Reporting the Highest Percentage of Minority Races and Sex	40
Tennessee Annual Juvenile Court Statistical Report Part II	42
Number of Individual Children, Cases, and Referral Counts by Court	43
Table – Child, Case, and Referral Counts by Court	44
Comparison of Child, Case, and Referral Counts by Court	47
Table – Child, Case, and Referral Counts by Court for CY 2005 and 2006	49
Children Referred to Juvenile Court by Race, Sex, and Court	51
Table – Children Referred to Juvenile Court by Race, Sex, and Court	52
Children by Race, Sex, and Court Under Age 18 at Time of Referral	55
Table – Children by Race, Sex, and Court Under Age 18 at Time of Referral	56
Referrals by Type of Offense, Age Group, Race, and Sex	58
Table – Referrals by Type of Offense, Age Group, Race, and Sex	59
Living Arrangement of the Child at the Time of Referral to Juvenile Court	60
Table/Chart – Living Arrangement of Juveniles by Race and Sex	61

TABLE OF CONTENTS

School Status of Individual Children at the Time of Referral to Juvenile Court	62
Table – Last Grade Completed by Children by Race and Sex	63
Table – Children Enrolled in School	63
Table – Children Enrolled in Special Education	63
Referral Information by Race, Sex, and Class of Referral/Offense	64
Table/Chart – Class of Referrals by Race and Sex	66
Table – Referrals by Class and Type of Offense, Race, and Sex	67
Referral Reasons by Type, Race, and Sex	70
Table – Referral Reasons by Type of Offense, Race, and Sex	71
Table – Top 4 Referral Reasons by Sex and Race	73
Table – Top 4 Referral by Sex, Race, and Type of Offense	74
Source of Referrals to the Juvenile Court	78
Table/Chart – Source of Referrals by Race and Sex	79
Six Most Frequent Referral Reasons by Source	80
Table – Six Most Frequent Referral Reasons by Source, Race, and Sex	81
Source of Referrals by Type of Offense, Race, and Sex	84
Table – Source of Referrals by Type of Offense, Race, and Sex	85
Children Referred for Unlawful Possession/Carrying of a Weapon	88
Table/Chart – Children Referred for Unlawful Possession/Carrying of a Weapon	89
Children Referred for Carrying Weapons on School Property	90
Table/Chart – Children Referred for Carrying Weapons on School Property	91
Manner of Handling the Referral	92
Table/Chart – Intake Actions at Referral by Race and Sex	93
Intake Actions at Referral by Class of Offense, Race, and Sex	94
Table – Intake Actions at Referrals by Class of Offense, Race, and Sex	95
Detention Statistics at Referral by Individual Child by Race and Sex	98
Table – Detention Statistics at Referral by Individual Child Race and Sex	99
Table – Detention Statistics at Referral by Individual Case	99
Placement after Secure Detention Hearing by Individual Child by Race and Sex	100
Table – Placement after Secure Detention Hearing by Individual Child by Race and Sex	101
Table – Placement after Secure Detention Hearing by Individual Child by Case	101
Dispositional Procedures	102
Table – Procedures Used to Dispose or Adjust all Referrals	103
Table – Referrals Disposed by Formal Adjudicatory Proceedings	103
Table – Referrals Disposed by Other Actions	103
Formal and Informal Actions by Race and Sex	104
Table/Chart – Formal and Informal Actions by Race and Sex	105
Formal and Informal Actions by Type of Offense, Race, and Sex	106
Table – Formal and Informal Actions by Type of Offense, Race, and Sex	107
Table – Formal and Informal Actions by Class of Referral, Race, and Sex	109
Number of Individual Children Transferred to Adult Court by Court, Race, and Sex	114
Table/Chart – Children Transferred to Adult Court by Age, Race, and Sex	115
Table – Children Transferred to Adult Court by Race, Sex, and Court	116
Table – Children Under Age 18 Transferred to Adult Court by Race and Sex	117
Table – Cases Transferred to Adult Court by Race, Sex, and Court	118

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table – Cases Transferred to Adult Court for Children Under Age 18 by Race and Sex	119
Individual Outcome/Dispositional Actions by Race and Sex	120
Table – Outcomes by Type of Disposition, Sex, and Race	122
Juvenile Court Referrals Disposed State-Wide Based on Number of Referrals	124
Chart – Breakdown of Referrals by Court Personnel Executing the Action	125
Trend Information	126
Chart – Yearly Comparison of Total Individual Children Referred to Tennessee Juvenile Courts	127
Chart – Yearly Comparison of Number of Referrals to Juvenile Court	128
Chart – Yearly Comparison of Number of Cases in Juvenile Court	129
Chart – Comparison of Delinquent Referrals Reasons and Individual Children Referred	130
Chart – Comparison of Status/Unruly Referral Reasons and Individual Children Referred	131
Chart – Comparison of Neglected, Dependent, and Abused Referral Reasons and Individual Children Referred	132
Chart – Comparison of Crime Index by Individual Children and Referral Reasons Homicide, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Rape, Larceny and Burglary	133
Chart – Comparison of Violent Crime Index Referrals for Homicide, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, and Rape	134
Chart – Comparison of Children Referred for Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Homicide, Larceny, Rape, and Robbery	135
Chart – Comparison of Referrals for Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Homicide, Larceny, Rape, and Robbery	136
Chart – Commitments to Department of Children’s Services (DCS, DHS, DYD) Individual Juveniles Committed	137
Chart – Comparison of Individual Children Referred to Juvenile Court with Violations of Probation or Violation of Aftercare	13
Shelby Juvenile Court Foster Care Review Statistic	138
Glossary	139

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TENNESSEE COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES 2007 ANNUAL JUVENILE STATISTICAL REPORT

2007 ANNUAL REPORT FORMAT

The 2007 Annual Juvenile Statistical Report follows a format that is based on a revision made in 2006, when it was separated into two parts to make it easier to read and use. Along with the summary information, the general state-wide statistics, graphs and information are in the first portion of the report.

Detailed information such as tables, trend information, and charts broken down by specific courts, sex, race, and age, are in the second portion of the report. Readers will also find the information more comprehensive than in years past. The AOC is working toward providing as much detailed juvenile court information as possible and has expanded the annual report in response to requests for more data.

2007 DATA LIMITATIONS

The AOC was able to collect more complete juvenile court data in 2007 than in the past; however, please note that data from 2005 has not been included in the trend information charts. In 2005, one of the larger juvenile courts submitted their data in a summarized format which could not be included in the database. Due to the lack of 2005 data from this court, the AOC chose the trend range of 1997 through 2004, 2006, and 2007 allowing for 10 years of accumulated facts that present the juvenile court data in the most meaningful way.

The 2007 Detention Statistics indicate that some courts reported large detention percentages in the “Unknown” and “Other” categories both before and after the Secure Detention Hearings. Please note that while “Unknown” should rarely be used to report detention information, the statistics indicate that some courts use this category often. The statistics also indicate that some court’s Detention Statistics are improperly reported (either under or over).

The AOC conducted a survey to identify potential reasons for the data anomalies that were found. This survey showed that some juvenile courts are severely under-reporting the number of Judicial and Administrative Reviews being conducted by their court staff. While the child counts are being properly reflected in the data and will remain stable, the number of contacts each juvenile has with court staff is under-reported. These numbers will increase as the courts begin to more accurately report their Review data, resulting in a more accurate depiction of juvenile court staff workload.

This survey also showed that ongoing high rates of turnover in personnel, lack of training, and court case management software and coding issues may all be responsible for these data shortfalls. The AOC has implemented an extensive training initiative to address these issues and has been working very closely with the juvenile court staff and case management software vendors to focus on these challenges and resolve the problems.